

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting, March 7, 2000

Present: Commissioners -

Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Parks/Historic Preservation
Reverend Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Parks/Historic Preservation
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Townships
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet Commission Nominee

National Park Service -

Lynn Bjorkman, KNHP Community Planner
Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent
Brian Hoduski, KNHP Interpreter

Recording Secretary: Lisa Dwyer

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, March 7, 2000, at the Finnish American Heritage Center at Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions or corrections.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the October 26, 1999, meeting were approved on a motion made by Larry Lankton and seconded by Kathryn Eckert.

Introductions

Frank Fiala introduced John Garber, former Advisory Commission member, Diana Charles representing U.S. Senator Carl Levin's office, Amy Wisti representing U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak 's office, Sandra Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center, and Erik Nordberg, MTU Archivist.

Superintendent's Report

Fiala reported that Advisory Commission members along with park partners and cooperating site personnel met Monday, March 6 and Tuesday, March 7, to begin the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) process. This process is to validate the main interpretive themes established in the General Management Plan as well as explore other possible themes.

The Advisory Commission is now an operating body per Public Law 106-134, approved December 7, 1999, Fiala reported.

According to Fiala, the proposed \$850,000 FY01 budget increase for the park includes \$100,000 to fund Advisory Commission operations. The \$4 million dollars for renovation of the Union building and the C & H Administration building in the FY01 budget is due to the efforts of U.S. Senator Carl Levin, and Fiala added that the \$1.7 million dollars in the FY00 budget for property acquisition is because of the efforts of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak.

Fiala spoke about the Union building saying it will probably be used for interpretive functions. He noted that the equipment for the old printing company that once occupied the building could be returned for an exhibition. The second floor might be used for a photo gallery. He added that the renovation of the building would be an "expensive package." The roof of the building needs to be redone and the third floor ceiling is deteriorating. There are still plans to pursue the purchase the C & H Library building currently owned by Lake Superior Land Company.

Michigan's Secretary of State Candice Miller was in the area in November to shoot a video regarding Copper County mining history that is to be a part of a video series of heritage tours in Michigan.

John Garber has resigned from the Advisory Commission due to health reasons. Sue Cone, comptroller of the Village of Calumet and Thomas Tikkanen of Calumet have been nominated by the village for the position. The nominations have been sent to the U.S. Secretary of Interior.

As reported at the last Advisory Commission meeting Joseph Balachowski has taken a position with the NPS in San Francisco. His position is now vacant. Lynn Bjorkman will be leaving KNHP in mid-May, but will return as a part-time consultant. Fiala has begun some recruiting for replacements. He explained that he would probably stagger the hiring of replacements. Individual parks are now responsible for paying for the moves of whoever is hired which can be a costly expenditure; absorbing the costs of two moves at the same time might be prohibitively expensive.

Fiala praised Bjorkman for her work on the historic district ordinances for the Village of Calumet and Calumet Township as well as her work on inventorying mine housing in the Calumet area.

Brian Hoduski is busy with curation work and currently working on the Jack Foster collection.

Lois Winkvist, administrative officer, is retiring April 1, 2000.

Fiala announced that a KNHP newspaper is being developed.

Fiala showed the KNHP logo that will be displayed at park sites as well as cooperating sites. He asked for feedback on the current logo design otherwise he would have the design produced.

Reports and Comments from Commissioners

Larry Lankton spoke of the 10 ball mills located on their original site at Ontonogan and asked for suggestions on what to do with this site. He noted that it is an archaeological site that is an important piece of mining technology. Lankton added that he would like to see the ball mills preserved on site, but if that can't be done they should be taken to another site where they can be preserved. He added that the site is well documented in the MTU Archives. It was suggested that Lankton, Fiala, and Ron Welton of Porcupine Wilderness State Park look into preservation of the mills and report back with a recommendation.

Reverend Robert Langseth reported that he spoke with the Houghton County Board of Commissioners to see if they would be interested in the process of looking into the establishment of a countywide type of historic district ordinance. They are not. Reverend Langseth said he would like to thank TV 5 for their efforts in publicizing park activities. Langseth suggested that the commissioners explore the idea of organizing a marathon as a fundraiser for the park and perhaps a "Monopoly Tournament," to raise awareness of the park. He distributed some background information on his suggestions. The feasibility of holding such events was discussed. There would be the matter of entrance fees, perhaps \$1,000 per participant for the marathon, attracting enough participants, and the manpower needed to run these events. The commissioners agreed it is a good concept but felt they couldn't undertake a project of this magnitude.

Kathryn Eckert reported that the Americana Foundation will be holding a meeting in the area August 25 and 26, 2000. The foundation provided grants recently toward the preservation of two local projects - St. Anne's Church in Calumet and the Mary Chase Stratton Perry House in Hancock. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be holding its annual meeting the third week in May. Eckert pointed out that this would be a good opportunity to promote the park. Eckert expressed great concern about the loss of park staff members Bjorkman and Balachowski and urged that those positions should be filled as soon as possible.

Paul Lehto reported that Senator Carl Levin has been in touch with First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton to discuss the "Save America's Treasures" grant program to see if support can be garnered from her regarding grant funding for the Seaman Mineral Museum relocation project. A group representing the museum is planning on going to Washington, D.C. to meet with the First Lady regarding the Save American's Treasures grant program.

Tom Nemacheck said the CIP meetings held these last two days have been good. He encouraged park partners and cooperating sites to put the pressure on community leaders in order to enlist their aid in helping to promote the park. He added that he is looking forward to learning how the Advisory Commission will work now that it has its operating

powers. The Michigan Outdoor Writers Association will be meeting this summer in Wakefield. Nemacheck suggested that it might a good opportunity to host the group either before or after their meeting in Wakefield. There is potential here for good publicity for the park. The kind of press that the park could receive from this group is better than any "ads," according to Nemacheck.

Sue Cone reported that the Calumet Theater submitted a grant application to the Save America's Treasures program, which was supported by the Village of Calumet. Cone stated that the Historic District Study Committee has completed the draft of the historic district ordinance for the village. It has been submitted to the village council. Cone stressed the need to find replacements as soon as possible for the park staff positions vacated by Bjorkman and Balachowski. She reported that infrastructure funding is needed for such things as historic paving brick and sidewalks on Fifth and Sixth Streets in Calumet. She mentioned that the Village of Calumet is 125 years old this year. Cone commented on the need to preserve some of the historically significant poor rock piles. After discussion, Cone agreed to draft a letter to be signed by Advisory Commission chair Paul Lento that would be sent to local units of government regarding preservation of some of the poor rock piles.

Comments and Questions from the Public

John Garber asked if anything could be done to try to purchase the Quincy Mine superintendent's house. The current owners are interested in selling or donating the house according to Garber, but are waiting for advice from their financial advisor as to what would benefit them.

Joseph Mihal, Village of Calumet council member, spoke of the need for infrastructure money for the village. He said that the village does not want to "take the easy way out" and use asphalt on the streets, but instead they would rather adhere to the park type of restoration such as paving brick. He stressed the need for funding help. A recent infrastructure cost estimate for future street renovation in Calumet showed that approximately \$11 million is needed.

Fiala noted that there are many government agencies and programs that might be able to help generate funding for historic renovation. Fiala added that he will pursue organizing a summit with government agencies, the state of Michigan, and government leaders who might be able to generate funding.

Richard Dana of the Keweenaw County Historical Society gave an update on activities in the Keweenaw. The Coppertown U.S.A. building had some roof repairs as well as signage work done. A new roof has been put on the historic Phoenix church. The blacksmith shop at the Phoenix location has been obtained and has undergone restoration. A building at the Central Mine location has undergone renovation. Different types of vintage boats are being obtained and restored and will be on display at Eagle Harbor. New signage is planned for the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse.

Ed Yarbrough, manager of Quincy Mine Hoist Association reported on the Quincy Mine Hoist site saying that long-term maintenance needs are being met, but there is much preservation work yet to be done. QMHA purchased three houses on the other side of U.S. 41 in an effort to control what happens to adjacent properties. The association is stabilizing two more homes in the Quincy core area to prevent further snow and weather-related destruction to them. Yarbrough noted that QMHA is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Kathryn Eckert made a motion, seconded by Larry Lankton, that the KNHP Advisory Commission reconvene at the close of this meeting and hold an executive session to discuss possible property acquisition. Fiala asked that legislative representatives Diana Charles of U.S. Senator Carl Levin's office and Amy Wisti of U.S. Representative Bart Stupak's office attend the executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the KNHP Advisory Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2000, at 8:30 a.m., at park headquarters in Calumet.

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